

BIG TEN PREVIEW
OHIO STATE Buckeyes

GAME PREVIEW
Texas A&M AGGIES

THE ORIGINAL MAGAZINE DEDICATED TO NEBRASKA ATHLETICS

HUSKERS

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JAYHAWK DOWN

Blackshirts Hold Kansas to 87 Yards,
Five First Downs in Series Finale



NOVEMBER 20, 2010
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**EDITOR,
GENERAL MANAGER**
Aaron Babcock

CONTRIBUTING EDITOR
Mike Babcock

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS
Mike Babcock, Terry Douglass, John Talman, Sean Callahan, Curt McKeever, Steve Sipple, Brian Rosenthal, Randy York, Sean Stevens, Bob Hamar

CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHERS
Scott Bruhn, NU Sports Information, Aaron Babcock, Randy Hampton and Rivals.com

**SPORTS MARKETING
& ADVERTISING DIRECTOR**
Tim Francis (800) 524-9527, ext. 111

SALES STAFF
Tim Francis, Aaron Babcock, Jeff Tudor, Chris Schmidt, Kellen Petersen

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Editorial: huskersillustrated@gmail.com
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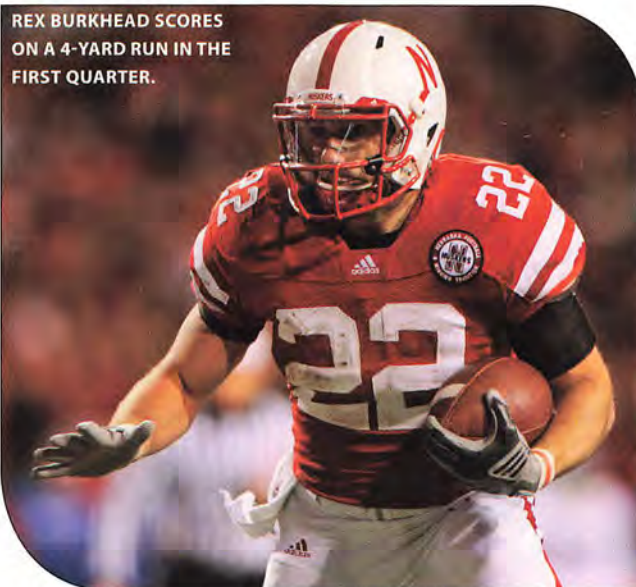


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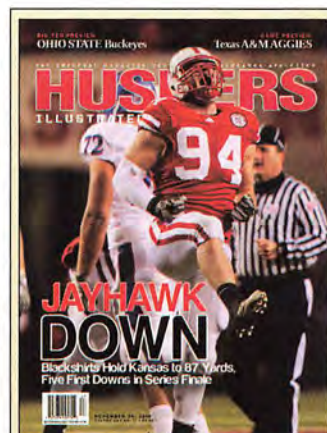
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NEXT ISSUE

Volume 30, Issue 18, the Texas A&M recap and Colorado preview, will be mailed Monday, Nov. 22. Check for updates at huskersillustrated.com.



HUSKERS
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ON THE COVER

Jared Crick celebrates after recording one of his two sacks and nine tackles against Kansas. Nebraska recorded six sacks for a loss of 28 yards as the Blackshirts held the Jayhawks to just 87 total yards. Crick has 52 tackles and 6.5 sacks through 10 games.

Photo by Aaron Babcock

STYLE POINTS

Nebraska's season yet to be defined



IT SEEMS LIKE there are a number of people surprised by the score of Nebraska's game against Kansas. A number of Husker fans were expecting a blowout. Even Vegas had Nebraska as a 35-point favorite.

I wasn't surprised.

This isn't an "I-told-you-so" column because I predicted a blowout in last week's magazine. But after a week of reflection, I had a much different feeling by the end of the week. Nebraska was coming off a stretch of games against Oklahoma State, Missouri and an overtime win at Iowa State.

The health of Taylor Martinez was still murky by week's end. Dreams of a 52-point scoring explosion, I thought, were highly unlikely. Instead I expected a heavy dose of Nebraska's running game, which would mean a quick game and a quick victory. On paper, this was the type of game Nebraska could plod through, get a victory and move on to College Station.

That's exactly what happened.

Nebraska opted for a vanilla game plan that gave Martinez a chance to get back in the saddle, but kept him safe. Husker coaches knew they could win this game with a bare-bones offense.

And they did.

The Cornhuskers are now 9-1 and can clinch the Big 12 North Division with a win at College Station. A 9-1 record should be plenty to celebrate. However, Nebraska's season has yet to be defined. That will come in its final four games. Win the first three and Nebraska will make its long-awaited return to a BCS bowl game.

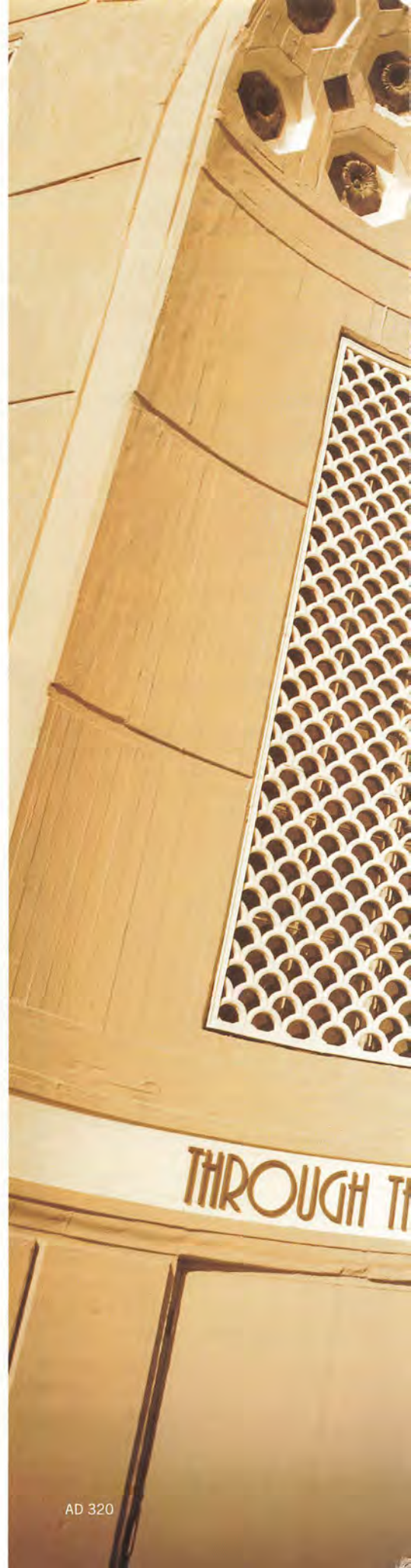
Win the fourth and the Huskers are back as a top-five program.

If you've watched or attended all 10 games to this point, you were probably thrilled after about four games. Nebraska was impressive against Washington, Kansas State, Oklahoma State (despite the defensive numbers) and Missouri. But in the other six games, it felt like Nebraska left the best parts of their game in the locker room.

In a way, Nebraska's season has been very much like Saturday's win against Kansas – methodical and businesslike. Those types of wins may not be sexy, but they get the job done.

Style points don't matter when you're counting up wins at season's end. But whether it's pretty or methodical, Nebraska will have to play much better for a win in College Station. **N**

Send me your comments or story ideas to aaron@huskersillustrated.com.





THESE GATES PASS THE GREATEST FANS IN COLLEGE FOOTBALL

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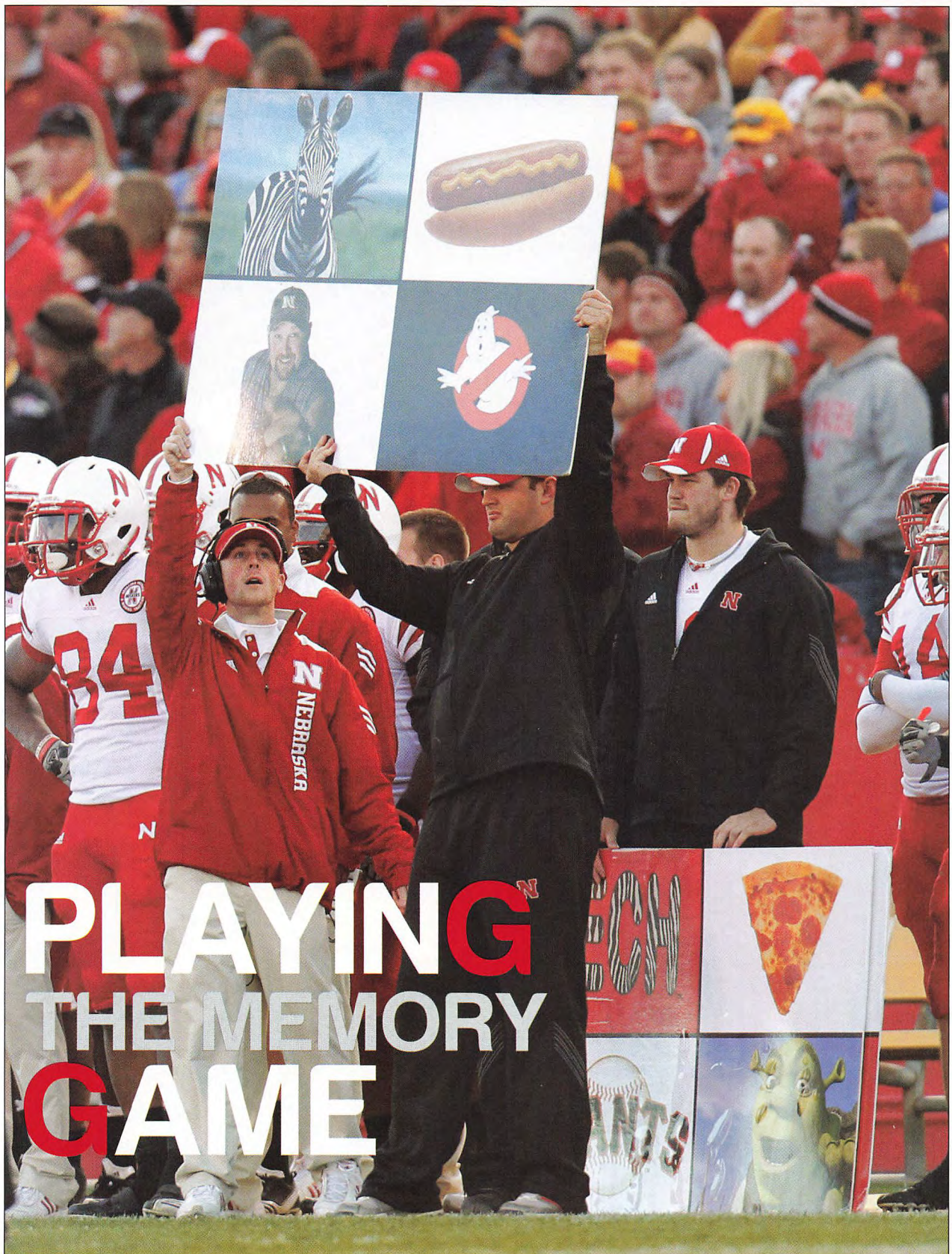


PHOTO BY SCOTT BRUHN

Nebraska has taken a page, or a card rather, out of Oregon's offensive playbook. Like the Ducks, the Huskers are using large cards, divided in quadrants with a potpourri of non-football pictures, to signal plays from the sideline. Among the pictures on the flashcards used during the Iowa State game were those of the San Francisco Giants logo, Shrek, Larry the Cable Guy, a zebra and a slice of pizza.

"It's just part of the no-huddle part of our offense," said offensive coordinator Shawn Watson. "It's fast information. That's the reason why we use it. Everybody's better visual learners, so it's fast, quick information that all has a meaning triggered by a picture. It's easier."

Jake Wesch, a football intern, is in charge of the cards and selects the pictures "because he's really creative," Watson said. "He knows what we're trying to do with the cards, and he always...never has ceased to amaze us or surprise us. So there's no telling (what will be on them)."

The pictures change from week-to-week, and "our players have fun seeing what he'll put on it. So he puts some pretty crazy things on there," said Watson.

"There's some that we've had to veto."

Some have involved inside jokes. For example, a picture on one of the cards the week of the Missouri game was of Jeff Jamrog, the Huskers' assistant athletic director for football operations. Jamrog is "Jake's idol, actually," Watson said with a laugh. "He wants to grow up to be Coach Jamrog."

Offensive tackle Jeremiah Sirles doesn't look at the cards during games. None of the offensive linemen do. So in most cases "I couldn't tell you what was on them," he said.

"Those are all personnel groupings. Somebody tells me what I'm doing. They get the signals from the sideline, and someone tells me. I just listen and do what I'm told."

He does remember the Jamrog picture, however, from practice that week.

"That was pretty funny," Sirles said. "You see those pictures, practice gets long, practice gets hard, you enjoy the little things, you get a laugh in. It keeps you going."

HI'S TOP 5

GOOD-BYE AGGIES



D.X. BIBLE

Nebraska's 40-game conference winning streak came to an end in its first-ever visit to College Station but the Huskers have dominated the series. Coach D.X. Bible (above) came to Nebraska from A&M in 1929. And D.B. "Woody" Varner, University of Nebraska chancellor-president (1970-76) and chairman of the NU Foundation (1977-87), was an A&M graduate. Here are five in the series to remember:

- 1 NEBRASKA 23, TEXAS A&M 14** (East Rutherford, N.J.) Aug. 27, 1988; Second of three Kickoff Classic victories (see Games Remembered).
- 2 NEBRASKA 54, TEXAS A&M 15** (San Antonio) Dec. 6, 1997; National-title-bound Huskers win first Big 12 title in a runaway.
- 3 NEBRASKA 28, TEXAS A&M 27** (College Station) Nov. 11, 2006; Zac Taylor-to-Maurice Purify, 9 yards, with 21 seconds remaining.
- 4 NEBRASKA 34, TEXAS A&M 7** (Lincoln) Sept. 25, 1971; Big-play TDs for No. 1 Huskers: Bill Olds, 67 run; Johnny Rodgers, 98 kickoff return, Bill Kosch, 95 interception return.
- 5 TEXAS A&M 28, NEBRASKA 21** (College Station) Oct. 10, 1998; Frank Solich's first loss as head coach, No. 2-ranked Huskers fall.

DAVID STILL ON PACE

Through nine games, junior linebacker Lavonte David had 96 total tackles to rank among the nation's leaders. And if the Cornhuskers were to reach the Big 12 championship game, he would have a shot at reaching the school single-season record for tackles set by Barrett Ruud in 2003 (149).

Coach Bo Pelini was asked recently if David's statistical accomplishment was overrated. "I don't know," Pelini said. "It shows that he's an active, good football player."

"But there's a lot more to the game than statistics."



LAVONTE DAVID

PHOTO BY AARON BABCOCK

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NO POSITION SWITCH

Yes, sophomore tight end Kyler Reed could play wide receiver. "No question about it," said receivers coach Ted Gilmore. "But I'm sure Coach (Ron) Brown doesn't want to hear that."

Reed is "kind of that hybrid guy, what we call a 'tweener.' He could play either way," Gilmore said. "But obviously, he's embraced that position (tight end) and has done a terrific job. So I don't think I'll EVER get him. I don't think Coach Brown wants to give him up. He's been a plus for us."

Reed, who weighed about 200 pounds at the time, wanted to play wide receiver when he arrived at Nebraska. But just before the start of pre-season practice his freshman year he talked with offensive coordinator Shawn Watson, and "he told me he kind of wanted me to play the tight end spot," said Reed. "So when I got to camp is when I started (playing) tight end."

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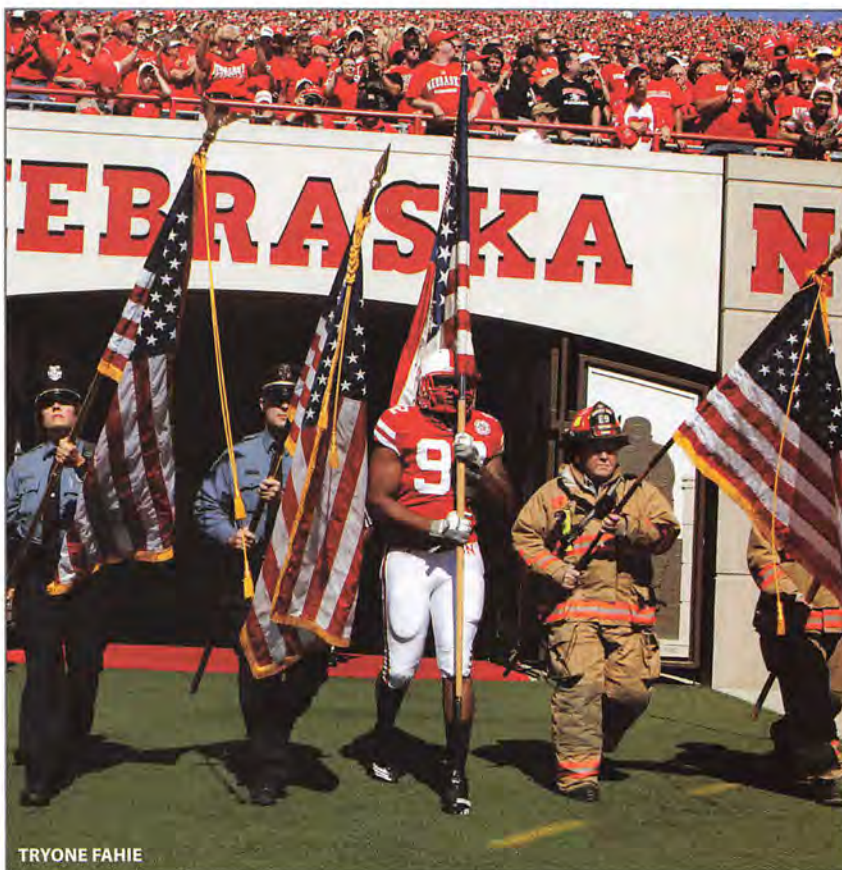
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TRYONE FAHIE

PHOTO BY RANDY HAMPTON

Special Award

Senior defensive end Tyrone Fahie will receive an Honorary Lott IMPACT Trophy on Dec. 12. Fahie served two tours of duty in Iraq in the United States Navy before walking on at Nebraska, following a tryout in the spring of 2007. Fahie, who is from Virginia Beach, Va., worked for Seal Team One as a communicator.

"He's a guy who has given everything he could to the program," said coach Bo Pelini. "He has a tremendous attitude and is a guy that won't get out there every Saturday, but he busts his butt every day, and it shows the heart and character. I think he is a tremendous role model for our younger guys and our program. He's a true team guy, and we are proud of him."

The late Pat Tillman, who played collegiately at Arizona State, and Mark Herzlich, the Boston College player who battled bone cancer a year ago, are the only others to receive Honorary Lott IMPACT Trophies.

For an in-depth feature on Fahie, visit babcockandbabcock.com

2010 SCHEDULE

9/4	WESTERN KENTUCKY,	W, 49-10
9/11	IDAHO	W, 38-17
9/18	at Washington	W, 56-21
9/25	SOUTH DAKOTA STATE	W, 17-3
10/7	at Kansas State	W, 48-13
10/16	TEXAS	L, 13-20
10/23	at Oklahoma State	W, 51-41
10/30	MISSOURI	W, 31-17
11/6	at Iowa State	W, 31-30 (OT)
11/13	KANSAS	6:00 p.m., PPV
11/20	at Texas A&M	7:00 p.m. ABC or ESPN2
11/26	COLORADO	2:30 p.m., ABC
12/4	Big 12 Championship	(Arlington, Texas)

SIDELINES



CLOSE-CROPPED

If not for the jersey number, you might not recognize Tyler Legate. He certainly doesn't look like the same guy who wore No. 48 at the beginning of the season (pictured). The junior fullback from Neligh, Neb., recently got his hair cut, after letting it grow since February. It's as short now as it was then.

No, Legate didn't lose a bet. "That's what everybody back home was thinking, too," he said.

Rather, he vowed to let his hair grow until the team lost. "We lost so I had to follow through with it," Legate said. "It wasn't just because we lost. I was getting tired of it, too. It's much better now."

His helmet is more comfortable. In fact, "I had to put a little air in my helmet because it was moving around on my head," said Legate. "People back home were like, 'One week, you got hair down to your shoulders and one week, you don't have any hair. What's going on with you?'"

What's going on, maybe, is a no-shave November. He was considering letting his beard grow.

Oh yes, because of the shaved head, he now wears a stocking cap.

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PHOTO BY SCOTT BRUHN

MAKING THE CUT

Senior cornerback Prince Amukamara is among 16 semifinalists for the Chuck Bednarik Award and 10 semifinalists for the Jim Thorpe Award.

Three finalists for the Bednarik Award, presented by the Maxwell Football Club to the collegiate defensive player of the year, will be announced on Nov. 22. It was among several major national awards won by former Cornhusker Ndamukong Suh last season.

The Thorpe Award is presented to the nation's best collegiate defensive back. Finalists also will be announced on Nov. 22, with the winner announced live on

ESPN, Dec. 9.

Redshirted freshman quarterback Taylor Martinez is among 16 semifinalists for the 74th Maxwell Trophy, presented to the collegiate player of the year. Three finalists for that award, also sponsored by the Maxwell Football Club, will be announced on Nov. 22 as well.

Martinez is the only freshman among the semifinalists. He's among five semifinalists from the Big 12. The others are: Oklahoma State's Justin Blackmon and Kendall Hunter, Baylor's Robert Griffin III and Oklahoma's Ryan Broyles.

SIDELINES

EARNING PLAYING TIME

Redshirted freshman defensive tackle Thad Randle has seen more action as the season has gone along. The reason? That's an easy answer. He has shown "marked improvement from the first game until now," defensive coordinator Carl Pelini said in early November.

"He has become better before our eyes. He just really has a grasp of what we're asking him to do, technique and everything. I like the way he's progressing."

PELINI'S ROAD GAMES

Bo Pelini is 10-3 on the road at Nebraska, with seven straight road wins. Here's a glance at his road games.

10/11/08	at Texas Tech, L, 37-31 (OT)
10/18/08	at Iowa State, W, 35-7
11/1/08	at Oklahoma, L, 62-28
11/15/08	at Kansas State, W, 56-28
9/19/09	at Virginia Tech, L, 16-15
10/8/09	at Missouri, W, 24-21
10/31/09	at Baylor, W, 20-10
11/14/09	at Kansas, W, 31-17
11/17/09	at Colorado, W, 28-20
9/18/10	at Washington, W, 56-21
10/7/10	at Kansas St., W, 48-13
10/23/10	at Oklahoma St., W, 51-41
11/6/10	at Iowa State, W, 31-30 (OT)



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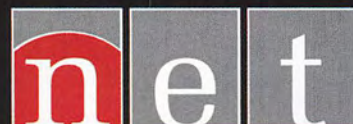


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THROWING THE BONES

By now you know that Taylor Martinez isn't excitable. Teammates and coaches have described him as a cool customer, reluctant to talk to reporters. But he did show excitement after scoring his first touchdown. Remember? He crossed his arms in celebration, threw the bones.

The thing is, throwing the bones is a defensive gesture.

"We were kind of looking at each other, 'Wait a minute,'" junior defensive tackle Jared Crick recalled. "If he wants to support the defense without knowing it, I'm all for that.

"None of us (on defense) really thought too much about it."

You wonder how an old-school Blackshirt such as, say, Jason Peter, would have reacted.



PHOTO BY SCOTT BRUHN

Constantly adjusting

To quote essayist and poet Ralph Waldo Emerson: "A foolish consistency is the hobgoblin of little minds, adored by little statesmen and philosophers and divines."

Though Bo Pelini and his brother Carl coach consistency in performance they aren't foolishly consistent in their approach to defense. They're flexible, willing to adapt.

Resistance to change "is a fear," said defensive ends coach John Papuchis. "But I think that's one thing that Bo and Carl and the staff consciously fight, that is you do remain the same and you do become static in the development of your defense, people will catch up to you.

"You always have to stay one step

ahead of what the other guy's trying to do because there's no doubt that our opponents spend a lot of time in the off-season working on ways to attack us. We have to anticipate the ways they're trying to attack us and kind of always stay one step ahead of the game."

The defensive game plan for Missouri, with defensive end Cameron Meredith dropping off the line of scrimmage, standing up like a linebacker and moving from side to side was a prime example.

"I think it's imagination. I think it's hard work," Papuchis said. The game plan wasn't conceived "overnight. This was something that was thought about and studied all through the off-season."

ACCUSTOMED TO TAYLOR

Sophomore tight end Ben Cotton has ceased to be amazed by what Taylor Martinez can do with a football in his hands. "Early on, you're like, 'Wow, he can make plays,'" Cotton said. "But I think by this point you know what everyone is capable of. You know all the weapons on offense."

HUSKERS

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Amherst



Faron Klingelhofer is reluctant to acknowledge his Husker career is, in all likelihood, over. But yes, he said, that can be written. "I guess it won't be that big of a deal if, by chance, I suited up again."

The odds are clearly against that, however. In the not-too-distant future, when his class schedule allows, Klingelhofer expects to have surgery to repair a right knee that has given him problems since his sophomore year in high school, when he had "a couple of meniscus removals."

The junior from Amherst went into this season with hopes of playing as a back-up defensive tackle. But four days into fall camp, with the knee swelling (but no pain, really), he had an MRI.

"I struggled with it (knee problem) a little for the last couple of seasons," he said. "I knew it might not be right, totally 100-percent healthy, but it was good enough to go on."

"I don't know right now if I would have never said anything, I might still be out there. But it got to the point where it was starting to affect me on the field."

The MRI was followed by arthroscopic surgery, which revealed a more significant issue, put him on crutches for a time and showed the need for major surgery to prevent long-term problems.

When he went in for the scope, Klingelhofer, a walk-on transfer from Nebraska-Kearney, expected to be back practicing in the spring. When he woke up

from the anesthesia, however, he found out otherwise. "For a while there it was kind of hard to deal with, all the work I had put in, the dreams and stuff, kind of got smashed or taken away, kind of unexpectedly," he said. "It was tough."

Husker defensive coordinator Carl Pelini, his position coach, asked if he wanted to continue to be involved with the team. "He invested so much in it," said Pelini.

"I was an athlete. I know what it's like to be hurt and feel isolated. Again, he'd given us a lot over two years, and you didn't want to just cast him aside; that's for sure."

So Pelini asked Klingelhofer, "who played with great technique," if he wanted to be a student coach, "be another set of eyes because he knows what I want...help the younger guys."

Pelini's invitation "was really nice," said Klingelhofer, who attends meetings and practice on Mondays and Wednesdays and misses about half of Tuesday and Thursday practices because of classes.

What Klingelhofer does is "not much different than what we did with Barry (Turner) the year he was hurt," Pelini said.

The difference: Turner knew he would be able to play the next season.

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2010 Nebraska Football Schedule

Date	Opponent	Location	Time
Sat, Sept. 4	Western Kentucky	Memorial Stadium	6:00 pm
Sat, Sept. 11	Idaho	Memorial Stadium	11:30 am
Sat, Sept. 18	at Washington	Husky Stadium	2:30 pm
Sat, Sept. 25	South Dakota State	Memorial Stadium	6:00 pm
Thur, Oct. 7	at Kansas State	Snyder Stadium	6:30 pm
Sat, Oct. 16	Texas	Memorial Stadium	2:30 pm
Sat, Oct. 23	at Oklahoma State	Pickens Stadium	2:30 pm
Sat, Oct. 30	Missouri	Memorial Stadium	2:30 pm
Sat, Nov. 6	at Iowa State	Trice Stadium	2:30 pm
Sat, Nov. 13	Kansas	Memorial Stadium	6:00 pm
Sat, Nov. 20	at Texas A&M	Kyle Field	7:00 pm
Fri, Nov. 26	Colorado	Memorial Stadium	2:30 pm



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Ohio State Buckeyes

Buckeyes boast seven national titles, seven Heisman trophies and eight straight BCS bowl games | TERRY DOUGLASS



AS A SEVEN-TIME national champion and the fifth Football Bowl Subdivision team to top the 800-win mark, Ohio State boasts one of the country's elite programs.

The Buckeyes claim national championships in 1942, 1954, 1957, 1961, 1968, 1970 and 2002. Ohio State has also captured 36 conference titles – 34 of them coming in the Big Ten – and produced 78 consensus All-Americans and seven Heisman Trophy winners.

Ohio State's seven Heisman winners are tied for the all-time record with Notre Dame and Southern California. Buckeye Archie Griffin is the only two-time recipient in the award's

history, winning it in 1974 and 1975.

OSU has been dominant in Big Ten play in recent years, capturing five consecutive conference titles. The Buckeyes have made eight consecutive appearances in BCS bowl games, including playing in the national championship game in 2002, 2007 and 2008.

Nebraska has lost both of its previous meetings with Ohio State, falling in road games to the Buckeyes in 1955 (28-20) and 1956 (34-7). OSU is scheduled to travel to Lincoln to play the Huskers in Memorial Stadium for the first time on Oct. 8, 2011, in NU's first Big Ten Conference home game.

DON'T MISS

Ohio State University is located in Columbus, Ohio, which is a 13-hour drive from Lincoln. Flights are available from Lincoln and Omaha, typically with one stop in Chicago.

The Buckeyes play their home games in Ohio Stadium. "The Horseshoe" has a seating capacity of 102,329 and features a FieldTurf playing surface.

The stadium was completed in 1922 at a cost of \$1.49 million and had an original capacity of 66,201. At the time, it was the world's largest poured concrete structure.

Named for explorer Christopher Columbus, Columbus has been called "The Arch City" due to dozens of wooden arches that spanned High Street at the turn of the 20th century.



HEAD COACH

Resume: Hired prior to the 2001 season as a replacement for the fired John Cooper, Jim Tressel posted a 94-21 record in his first nine seasons at Ohio State. Tressel guided the Buckeyes to a 14-0 record and a national championship in 2002, defeating Miami (Fla.).

NAMES TO KNOW

WOODY HAYES: (left) Coached Ohio State to three national championships and 13 Big Ten titles during his 28 seasons. His career came to a controversial end when he was fired for punching an opposing player in the 1978 Gator Bowl.

ARCHIE GRIFFIN: (middle) College football's only two-time Heisman Trophy winner (1974 and 1975), Griffin was the first player ever to start four Rose Bowls. He rushed for 5,589 yards in his career, then a NCAA record.

ORLANDO PACE: The second true freshman to ever start for Ohio State in a season-opener, Pace was the only two-time winner of the Lombardi Award (1995 and 1996). He also won the 1996 Outland.

EDDIE GEORGE: (right) Rushed for a school-record 1,927 as a senior in 1995 and went on to win the Heisman Trophy over Nebraska quarterback Tommie Frazier in the closest vote in the award's history at the time.

KIRK HERBSTREIT: While he was voted Ohio State's team MVP as a senior quarterback in 1992, passing for 1,904 yards, Herbstreit is better known nationally as an Emmy Award-winning analyst for ESPN's College GameDay TV program.



**STATE
OF THE
HUSKERS**
BY CURT MCKEEVER

Wildcat brings versatility to offense

NEBRASKA'S VERSION of the Wildcat drew rave reviews after the 2009 Holiday Bowl.

With Roy Helu, Jr. limited by a shoulder injury, the Huskers gave Rex Burkhead a heavier load, and he produced many of his 89 yards in a 33-0 win against Arizona from a direct-snap variation of the single-wing formation.

In the Wildcat, the quarterback splits out as a receiver, leaving a running back to take the snap and another running back to block or run to try and neutralize defenses that stack the line of scrimmage.

Burkhead gained 34 yards on his first such carry, and considering how running backs coach Tim Beck marveled about his instincts, you could see the Wildcat becoming a bigger part of the Huskers' offense this season.

In their first eight games, however, the only time they used it was against Idaho – and Niles Paul fumbled that opportunity.

So imagine Iowa State's confusion in game nine, when, with starting quarterback Cody Green temporarily sidelined, Nebraska inserted gimpy Taylor Martinez and split him wide, and lined Burkhead behind center in shotgun formation.

He would take the snap and run 29 yards, and nine plays later Nebraska was in the end zone.

With NU playing it safe with Martinez, Burkhead would rush a career-high 29 times for 129 yards and two touchdowns – mostly out of the Wildcat.

"Yeah, he's a great player and he makes great plays, but we had to rely on the run game, I guess you could say," Burkhead said. "New formations and all that. We still managed."

It helps that Nebraska has an open-minded offensive coordinator.

Remember, in the previous game, a 31-17 win against Missouri, Burkhead carried only twice while Helu rushed for a school-record 307 yards.

Watson had to switch things up against the Cyclones because of Martinez's situation and an injury that back-up quarterback Zac Lee originally suffered against Missouri. In an effort to take some of the physical load off Green, Shawn Watson ended up calling "15 to 18" Wildcat runs.

"That is just a big part of our offense, to be able to run that option offense," he said. "We had a plan going in to use as much as we needed."

So what makes Burkhead so effective in the formation?

For starters, he ran it in high school. He also played quarterback as a sophomore, and so he understands all the reads required to make it work.

So, is the next step to have him throw out of the Wildcat?

"Yeah, we have passes in there for him," Watson said. "We've run reverse passes with him. He's a good passer. He's not John Elway, but he's more than adequate with it. We always have that as part of the plan"

Well, maybe not always.

When Martinez is healthy, he's the Huskers' most explosive player, and they'd rather have that quality utilized out of zone-read options.

With Green, who's a physical runner, but not nearly as fleet, the Wildcat makes more sense.

"It's putting people in position to do what they do best when you have the option between what is Rex and Cody," Watson said when asked if using the Wildcat signals anything about the coaches' faith in Green. "In terms of their ability to run and what they bring to the read element of it, it's a no-brainer. Just putting people where they do what they do best."

But with Burkhead's versatility, the Wildcat is something that's always going to be in the Huskers' back pocket.

"We have a ball-handling period with him with the quarterbacks. He is just as involved with it," Watson said. "Then we do it in the practice. By the time he walks out of there, he gets quite a few reps. We had it ready (for Iowa State) in case we faced a situation like what we faced." ■

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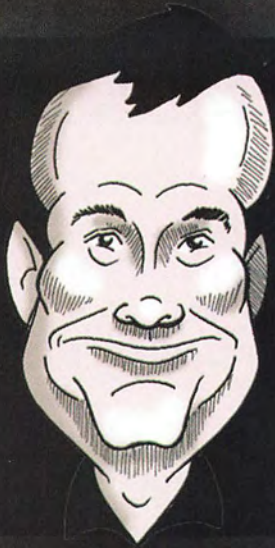
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**6-1, 280, R-FR, DEFENSIVE TACKLE
GALENA PARK, TEXAS**

FIVE QUESTIONS

Thaddeus Randle

D-Tackle Shares & Common Love of Football with Mom

**JULIA LONG IS
THE MOTHER OF
THADDEUS RANDLE.**

And mother and son have something unusual in common.

They both play football. In fact, they play the same position.

"She plays defensive tackle, just like me," Randle said.

Long, 38 and the mother of three, joined the Houston Energy, a women's football team, two seasons ago.

Why?

"Just so we can have something to talk about," Randle said. "When she started playing football, we started really getting close. She's really starting to get into sports."

Long, who also coaches AAU boys football, had a bit of a setback with her football career, though. As she writes in her bio



on the Energy's Web site, she plays now with only seven toes.

"She was cutting grass one day in her slippers last summer, and her foot got caught up in the lawnmower," Randle said. "But she still plays now."

Before joining the Energy, Long had never played football, but was a track star in high school.

She enjoys talking football with her son.

"Yeah, she likes to talk about it, but my dad, he really likes to talk about it," Randle said.

Thaddeus Randle, Sr., played

linebacker in high school until his senior season.

"But he messed up his neck real bad, so he had to stop."

Long's season runs April through May, so it doesn't interfere with her following Randle's career. The Energy went 5-3 this season, and all five victories were shutouts.



1

HUSKERS ILLUSTRATED What's your favorite thing to watch on TV?

THADDEUS RANDLE I really like to watch comedy shows, and I love to watch cartoons.

2

HI What's the best thing about living in Texas?

RANDLE I like the air. I really don't like the cold. I like the heat. And just the atmosphere and being back around my friends. Football is like a religion down there, and I love football, so it's a great thing.

3

HI Who's the funniest player on the team?

RANDLE T-Mo, Terrence Moore. And Brandon Kinnie. T-Mo, he just does these voices and acts funny, and Brandon Kinnie, he's my roommate. He's just real funny because we're always together.

4

HI What will you miss the most about the Big 12?

RANDLE Playing back in Texas, because now we aren't going to be playing schools close to home.

5

HI How close were you with Ndamukong Suh?

RANDLE Not really close, but he just helped me, my freshman year, he taught me things, told me to keep focused and told me, since it was my redshirt year, it would be good to get better, stronger and faster. He just really helped me and looked out for me."



by Terry Douglass

TURNING POINT



PHOTO BY SCOTT BRUHN

SETTING THE TONE

WHEN NEBRASKA stopped Kansas on fourth down on the opening drive of the game at the Cornhuskers' 41-yard line, there was obviously a lot of football yet to play.

At the same time, keeping the Jayhawks from converting on fourth down seemed to set the tone for the Blackshirts as they put together their most dominant defensive performance of the season in a 20-3 victory at Memorial Stadium in Lincoln.

"When that happened, it felt like we were going to dominate them — as we did," Nebraska defensive back Alfonzo Dennard said. "It just showed that they were kind of scared of us."

The Blackshirts allowed Kansas to 87 yards, which was the lowest total every by a Bo Pelini-coached Nebraska defense.

"Front to back, we executed well, we tackled well and I thought it was a really solid performance," Pelini said. "You don't hold somebody to under 100 yards without playing good football."

"When we execute what we're supposed to do, we're pretty good. I think we've slowly, but surely, been getting better (defensively) and I thought it showed out there tonight."

Kansas had 72 yards rushing and quarterback Quinn Mecham was just 3-of-13 passing for 15 yards. The Huskers finished with six sacks, led by linebacker Lavonte David and defensive tackle Jared Crick, who had two sacks apiece.

"Just forcing them into third and long really benefited not just myself, but everybody on the line and especially the linebackers when we brought pressure," Crick said. "I (couldn't) care less about the stats for myself, but I totally 100 percent credit it to getting our job done on first and second down."

"It gives us an opportunity to get our tails in the air and really get after (the quarterback) and that's what we're really good at."

The 87 total yards were the fewest allowed by Nebraska since Baylor had just 84 yards against the Huskers on Oct. 21, 2000.

"We've had a lot of great defensive performances, but (this is) definitely up there," Crick said. "I can't name them number-wise ... but it's definitely a great performance and it's definitely one of the top ones I've seen since I've been here." **N**

by Terry Douglass

PHOTO BY AARON BABCOCK

GameNotes



PHOTO BY SCOTT BRUHN

Martinez returns

Taylor Martinez's return to the starting lineup against Kansas received mixed reviews.

After sitting out all but one play of the past 1 1/2 games due to an ankle injury suffered on Oct. 30 against Missouri, Martinez was back at quarterback for Nebraska as it beat the Jayhawks 20-3. The redshirt freshman committed two turnovers – one fumble and one interception – but completed 14-of-26 pass attempts for 167 yards and rushed 11 times for 71 yards with a long gain of 18.

Martinez carried the ball just three times for 10 yards in the first half as Nebraska's coaches tried to ease him back into action, giving most of the early carries to I-backs Roy Helu Jr. and Rex Burkhead.

"In the beginning, we locked a few of the runs for Roy and Rex just to get them into a rhythm and stuff and just have me feel my ankle and see how it

felt," Martinez said. "And it felt pretty good today.

"I went up to them and told them (at halftime) to have me start running the ball. Obviously, they did."

Still, Nebraska offensive coordinator Shawn Watson said he wanted to be careful with Martinez. The Huskers were also hopeful of having Martinez at full speed for next Saturday's game at Texas A&M.

"We have had to really watch how we manage him handle him," Watson said. "Especially with the game we have going next week. That's step one, to get him back in the flow. I think that will be a big step."

NOT GOOD ENOUGH

Nebraska finished with 397 yards of total offense against Kansas, but had difficulty translating their performance

into points. The Huskers had two turnovers – a fumble and an interception – and managed just a pair of Alex Henery field goals after taking a 14-0 halftime lead.

"There were a lot of things we need to pick up," Nebraska coach Bo Pelini said. "We weren't very efficient.

"We didn't execute very well. We were sloppy. We didn't play our best, but we won 20-3 and it's time to move on to the next one."

Nebraska tackle Jeremiah Sirles said it was definitely a frustrating outing.

"We could move the ball, but we couldn't score," Sirles said. "That's a problem because you can't win a game with total yards. No one needs to panic – nothing went terribly wrong.

"We just need to clean up the little things, put everything into full drives and finish them off."

GameNotes

PHOTO BY RANDY HAMPTON



Nebraska said goodbye to perhaps its favorite foe by defeating Kansas 20-3 in their final meeting as conference opponents.

It was the 91st victory over the Jayhawks for the Cornhuskers -- the most wins by any school against one opponent in NCAA history. Nebraska, which had unbeaten streaks of 36 and 27 games against Kansas, dominated the all-time series 91-23-3.

The Huskers and Jayhawks squared off for the 117th time overall and the 105th consecutive season. The series, which is tied for the third-longest in NCAA Bowl Subdivision history and

the longest continuous series in NCAA history, will end because the Huskers are headed to the Big Ten Conference next season.

While there may have been some left feeling sentimental about the Huskers and Jayhawks no longer meeting on an annual basis, Nebraska coach Bo Pelini obviously wasn't one of them.

"I don't care," Pelini said when asked about the end of the NU-KU series. "That's part of the deal. We're moving on."

"I haven't been around the series very long, so it doesn't bother me much."

SERIES CESSATION

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DALLAS BOUND?

Next up for Nebraska is a road trip to College Station, Texas, and Kyle Field to play at Texas A&M (7-3, 4-2). With a win over the Nos. 23 and 25 Aggies, who beat Baylor 42-30 on Saturday, the Huskers could clinch the North Division title and a return trip to Dallas to play in the Big 12 championship game on Dec. 4.



WORTH NOTING

Turner Gill, who was both a starting quarterback (1981-

83) and an assistant coach (1992-2004) for Nebraska experienced what life is like for Husker opponents at Memorial Stadium in his first trip to Lincoln as the Kansas head coach.

"There was a little bit of awkwardness for me to come into the stadium on the other side," Gill said.

"But that's about it. Once you come into the game, everything was focused on what we needed to get done."

Gill said he and Nebraska athletics director Tom Osborne, who was Gill's coach when he played for the Huskers, didn't have an opportunity to visit in person during his trip to Lincoln.

"But we did talk on the phone just briefly," Gill said. "He wished me success today, told me to keep moving forward and he's there for me in all support."

WORTH NOTING

► The win over Kansas marked Nebraska's ninth consecutive victory in the month of November, dating back to a Nov. 1, 2008, loss at Oklahoma. The Huskers also won their ninth consecutive November home since a 2004 setback against Colorado.

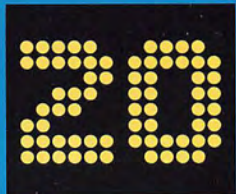
► With eight points against the Jayhawks, Nebraska place-kicker Alex Henery increased his career scoring total to 373 points, moving him past Eric Crouch into second-place on the Huskers' all-time charts. Kicker Kris Brown is NU's all-time scoring leader with 388 points.

► Nebraska's game captain's were junior center Mike Caputo, sophomore linebacker Eric Martin and junior fullback Tyler Legate.

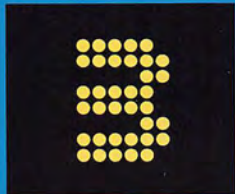


ROY HELU JR. CONGRATULATES REX BURKHEAD AFTER SCORING ON A 4-YARD RUN IN THE FIRST QUARTER. PHOTO BY AARON BABCOCK

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NEBRASKA



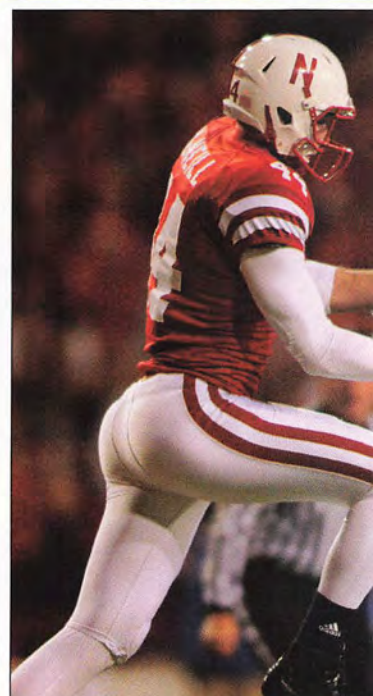
KANSAS



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CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: 1) Niles Paul delivers a stiff arm after making one of his seven catches. *Photo by Scott Bruhn.* 2) Roy Helu Jr. leaps into the end zone, capping a 20-yard run in the second quarter. *Photo by Randy Hampton.* 3) Mike McNeil hauls in a 21-yard reception from Taylor Martinez. *Photo by Aaron Babcock.* 4) DeJon Gomes and Prince Amukamara team up on a tackle. *Photo by Scott Bruhn.* 5) Brandon Kinnie's 17-yard catch set up Nebraska's final field goal. *Photo by Scott Bruhn.*

PLAYER SPOTLIGHT

MARCEL JONES

Welcome back, No. 78, at long last.

Marcel Jones missed the first nine games this season with back problems, after starting 11 games at offensive right tackle a year ago. So the question was reasonable enough.

Would Jones remain sidelined and apply for a medical redshirt?

"We haven't even thought about that," offensive line coach Barney Cotton said on the Wednesday before the Kansas game. "He's practicing all the time. I get the same question every week.

"He's got something that's probably going to bother him, you know, for the rest of the season, but it seems

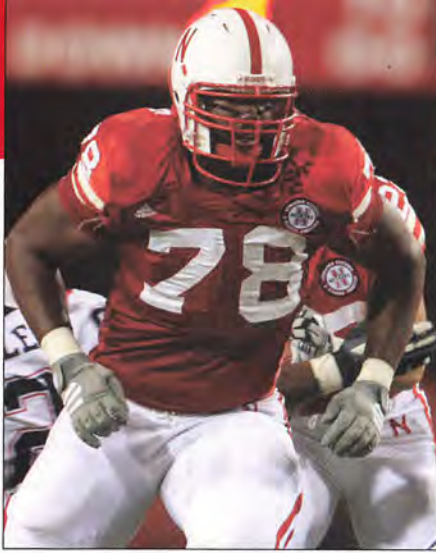
like he's to the point now where he can play through it, and if he ever does tweak something, he's back in 15 seconds, where earlier this year, he wasn't like that.

"So it wouldn't surprise me if we get him on the field this week."

Jones did get back on the field against the Jayhawks, rotating in for D.J. Jones on Nebraska's first possession of the second quarter and playing most of the period.

Marcel also came in at the start of the fourth quarter.

So no medical redshirt for him – and no surprise to Cotton, who wouldn't have been surprised anyway considering as the position coach the decision was his.



Husker Report Card

RUSHING

Nebraska was inconsistent running the ball. The Huskers should have done better considering Kansas came into the game ranked 11th in the conference and 108th nationally in rushing defense. And they shouldn't have had to punt six times. At times, execution was a problem.

B-

PASSING

Like a Clint Eastwood movie, the Husker passing game, ranked 110th nationally, had a little bit of the good (Niles Paul and Brandon Kinnie), the bad and the ugly, as in Taylor Martinez's fourth interception of the season.

C+

RUSHING DEFENSE

The Jayhawks' running was only slightly more productive than its passing, which is to say not very (productive). They averaged 2.1 yards on 34 rushes.

A+

PASSING DEFENSE

Kansas quarterback Quinn Mecham might well have had nightmares about converging red jerseys on the trip back to Lawrence. And where were his receivers? Not open very often.

A+

KICKING/SPECIAL TEAMS

The Jayhawks' D.J. Beshears did return the opening kickoff 45 yards and the second kickoff 33 yards. But Nebraska had the advantage otherwise, with Alex Henery's kicking in particular.

A

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NEBRASKA vs. TEXAS A&M



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QUICK PICKS



Aaron Babcock



Mike Babcock



Terry Douglass



Kevin Kugler



Sean Callahan



Matt Davison

(Season, Last Week)

(55-25, 5-3)

(58-22, 5-3)

(58-22, 4-4)

(57-23, 7-1)

(54-26, 5-3)

(58-21, 5-3)

Nebraska at Texas A&M	A&M 24-23	NU 31-20	NU 33-30	NU 31-30	NU 38-31	NU 34-20
Oklahoma State at Kansas	OSU 52-10	OSU 52-17	OSU 45-20	OSU 45-10	OSU 52-13	OSU 45-17
Kansas State at Colorado	KSU 24-20	CU 35-31	KSU 17-14	KSU 28-21	KSU 27-23	CU 27-24
Missouri at Iowa State	MU 35-14	MU 28-14	MU 27-21	MU 41-20	MU 34-28	MU 34-21
Oklahoma at Baylor	OU 31-28	OU 38-35	OU 40-23	OU 41-38	OU 45-35	OU 37-27
Ohio State at Iowa	OSU 21-20	OSU 28-20	IOWA 20-17	OSU 28-18	OSU 27-23	OSU 27-17
Arkansas at Mississippi State	UA 28-24	MSU 38-35	MSU 24-21	UA 31-21	UA 34-27	UA 31-30
Stanford at California	STAN 35-21	STAN 42-21	CAL 35-31	STAN 35-17	STAN 48-27	STAN 30-20

SUMMARY

SCORING

Oct. 30, 2010
Memorial Stadium • Lincoln, Neb.
Attendance: 85,907

	1	2	3	4	F
KANSAS	0	0	3	0	3
NEBRASKA	7	7	3	3	20

	First Quarter	KU	NU
NU	0:33 Rex Burkhead 4 yd run Drive: 9 plays, 54 yards, 4:11	0	7
	Second Quarter		
NU	3:05 Roy Helu Jr. 20 yd run Drive: 9 plays, 75 yards, 3:40	0	14
	Third Quarter		
NU	6:46 Alex Henery 42 yd field goal Drive: 9 plays, 55 yards, 3:51	0	17
KU	3:36 Ja Branstetter 42 yd field goal Drive: 5 plays, 22 yards, 2:18	3	17
	Fourth Quarter		
NU	3:44 Alex Henery 24 yd field goal	3	20

TEAM STATS

	KU	NU
Total First Downs	5	20
Rushing	3	11
Passing	1	9
Penalty	1	0
Rushing Attempts	34	49
Yards Gained Rushing	101	241
Yards Lost Rushing	29	11
Net Yards Rushing	72	230
Net Yards Passing	15	167
Passes Attempted	13	26
Passes Completed	3	14
Had Intercepted	1	1
Percent Completion	23.1%	53.8%
Yards per Attempt	1.2	6.4
Yards per Completion	5.0	11.9
Total Offensive Plays	47	75
Total Net Yards	87	397
Avg. Gain Per Play	1.9	5.3
Fumbles: No-Lost	0-0	2-1
Penalties: No-Yards	1-9	6-54
Punts: No-Yards	9-363	6-259
Avg. Per Punt	40.3	43.2
Avg. Net Punt	38.1	39.7
Punt Returns: No-Yards	1-1	0-0
Kickoff Returns: No-Yards	5-139	2-63
Interception Returns: No-Yards	1-8	1-0
Fumble Returns: No-Yards	0-0	0-0
Miscellaneous Yards	0	0
Possession Time	23:32	36:28
Third-Down Conversions	2-13	9-17
Percentage	15.4%	52.9%
Fourth-Down Conversions	0-1	0-0
Percentage	0%	0%
Sacks By: No-Yards	1-5	6-28

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

NEBRASKA

RUSHING	NO	GAIN	LOST	NET	AVG	TD	LG
Helu Jr.	18	85	0	85	4.7	1	20
Burkhead	19	80	3	77	4.1	1	14
Martinez	11	76	5	71	6.5	0	18
TEAM	1	0	3	-3	-3.0	0	0
TOTAL	49	241	11	230	4.7	2	20

PASSING	ATT	COMP	%	INT	YDS	TD	LG
Martinez	26	14	53.8	1	167	0	26

RECEIVING	NO	YDS	TD	LG
Paul	7	79	0	26
Kinnie	6	67	0	17
McNeill	1	21	0	21
TOTAL	14	167	0	26

KICK RETURNS	NO	YDS	TD	LG
Paul	2	63	0	34

INTER. RETURNS	NO	YDS	TD	LG
Dennard	1	0	0	0

PUNTING	NO	AVG	LG	50+	IN20
Henery	6	43.2	53	2	5

FIELD GOALS	MADE	ATT	LG	BLKD
Henery	2	2	42	0

KICKOFFS	NO	AVG	TB	OB
Kunalic	5	68.0	0	0

DEFENSE	UT	AT	TT	TFL	SAC	BU	FF	FR
David	5	5	10	2-8	2-0-8	1	--	--
Crick	3	6	9	2-12	2-0-12	--	--	--
Steinkuler	--	7	7	--	--	--	--	--
Gomes	2	3	5	1-6	1-0-6	--	--	--
Cassidy	1	4	5	--	--	--	--	--
Meredith	2	2	4	--	--	--	--	--
Dennard	2	1	3	--	--	--	--	--
Amukamara	1	1	2	--	--	1	--	--
Moravec	1	1	2	--	--	--	--	--
Martin	0	2	2	--	--	--	--	--
Allen	0	2	2	1-0	--	--	--	--
Hagg	1	--	1	--	--	--	--	--
Compton	1	--	1	1-2	1-0-2	--	--	--
Paul	1	--	1	--	--	--	--	--
Osborne	1	--	1	--	--	--	--	--
Stoddard	1	--	1	--	--	--	--	--
May	--	1	1	--	--	--	--	--
Ebke	--	1	1	--	--	--	--	--
Moore	--	1	1	1-1	--	1	--	--
Grove	--	1	1	--	--	--	--	--
Ankrah	--	1	1	--	--	--	--	--

KANSAS

RUSHING	NO	GAIN	LOST	NET	AVG	TD	LG
McDougald	4	27	0	27	6.8	0	18
Sims	9	24	0	24	2.7	0	5
Beshears	5	14	1	13	2.6	0	8
Quigley	6	10	0	10	1.7	0	4
Mecham	10	26	28	-2	-0.2	0	15
TOTAL	34	101	29	72	2.1	0	18

PASSING	ATT	COMP	%	INT	YDS	TD	LG
Mecham	13	3	23.1	1	15	0	12

RECEIVING	NO	YDS	TD	LG
Quigley	1	12	0	12
Patterson	1	2	0	2
Sims	1	1	0	1
TOTAL	3	15	0	12

KICK RETURNS	NO	YDS	TD	LG
Beshears	5	139	0	45

PUNT RETURNS	NO	YDS	TD	LG
Patterson	1	1	0	1

INT. RETURNS	NO	YDS	TD	LG
Patmon	1	8	0	8

PUNTING	NO	AVG	LG	50+	IN20
Rojas	9	40.3	62	2	0

FIELD GOALS	MADE	ATT	LG	BLKD
Branstetter	1	1	42	0

KICKOFFS	NO	AVG	TB	OB
Branstetter	2	63.0	0	0

DEFENSE	UT	AT	TT	TFL	SAC	BU	FF	FR
Harris	8	4	12	--	--	--	--	--
Brown	7	3	10	--	--	--	--	--
Ogunmodu	4	5	9	--	--	1	--	--
Laptad	2	5	7	1-3	0.5-3	--	1	--
Johnson	5	1	6	--	--	--	--	1
Barfield	5	0	5	--	--	--	--	--
Davis	4	0	4	--	--	--	--	--
Dorsey	3	1	4	--	--	--	1	--
Springer	1	3	4	--	--	--	--	--
Oporum	1	2	3	1-3	--	2	--	--
Patmon	0	3	3	--	--	2	--	--
Strozier	1	1	2	--	--	--	--	--
Johnson	1	1	2	1-2	0.5-2	--	--	--
Branstetter	1	1	2	--	--	--	--	--
Steward	1	--	1	--	--	--	--	--
Mestan	1	--	1	--	--	--	--	--
Young	1	--	1	--	--	--	--	--
Lewis	--	1	1	--	--	--	--	--
Dudley	--	1	1	--	--	--	--	--



Texas A&M Aggies

Sherman's move of Tannehill to quarterback leads Aggies to win streak | JERRY TRICKIE

Since pre-season Big 12 Offensive Player of the Year Jerrod Johnson was benched in late October, Texas A&M has rolled

off three consecutive victories, including beating No. 11 Oklahoma 33-19 to become bowl eligible. The Aggies are

among the national top 25 in passing, scoring and total offense, while ranking sixth against the run by allowing 92.3 ypg.



Junior Ryan Tannehill made a splash after taking over at quarterback in the second quarter against Kansas on Oct. 23. Since then, he has led an A&M squad averaging 474 yards per game to three straight wins while pacing the Big 12 with a 162.2 pass efficiency rating.



HEAD COACH

Resume: Former Green Bay Packers head coach Mike Sherman is in his third season guiding the Aggies and now has A&M eligible for a bowl game in consecutive seasons. He owns a 16-18 coaching record in college and was 59-43 in six years in the NFL.

KNOW YOUR FOE



Jeff Fuller, Jr., WR:

Fuller ranks third in the Big 12 with 886 receiving yards (98.4 ypg), including

four 100-yard games and 11 touchdowns.



Cyrus Gray, Jr., RB:

Gray has a team-high six rushing TDs with 536 yards while ranking among the

league's top kickoff returners (24.8 ypr).



Michael Hodges, Sr.,

LB: Hodges leads Texas A&M with 76 tackles and ranks among the Big 12

leaders with 7.5 TFL and 4.5 sacks.

2010 SCHEDULE

- 9/4 Stephen F. Austin, W, 48-7
- 9/11 Louisiana Tech, W, 48-16
- 9/18 Florida International, W, 27-20
- 9/30 at Oklahoma State, L, 35-38
- 10/9 vs. Arkansas, L, 17-24
- 10/16 Missouri, L, 9-30
- 10/23 at Kansas, W, 45-10
- 10/30 Texas Tech, W, 45-27
- 11/6 Oklahoma, W, 33-19
- 11/13 at Baylor, 6 p.m.
- 11/20 Nebraska, 7 p.m.
- 11/25 at Texas, 7 p.m.

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CATCHINGUPWITH

Eric Warfield

PERSONAL ROAD TO REDEMPTION INCLUDES A DEGREE

ERIC WARFIELD has been badgered so many times about getting his college degree that he finally decided to return to Nebraska and make that sheepskin college diploma in sociology his top priority.

The degree is something he left in his rear-view mirror after starring as a safety on Nebraska's 1997 national championship team and then converting a seventh-round selection in the NFL Draft into eight productive years and 115 games with the Kansas City Chiefs.

"I was so busy making a lot of money and playing a sport I love that I had no idea where my life was headed because I was off in 20 different directions at once," Warfield said. "I was taking care of everybody and everything I could, but failed to take care of myself."

Consequently, Warfield's life took a detour through enough sadness and misery that he had no choice but to

make major changes in it.

"No. 1, there is no drinking at all," he said. "No. 2, I finally have the ability to say no, and No. 3, my life is pretty much headed in one direction and one direction only."

Call it Eric Warfield's personal road to redemption – a journey that required six months in a Lincoln, Neb., halfway house to pay society back for driving under the influence.

"I've done a lot of soul-searching over the last year, and I know I can make a better person of myself," he said. "I've been blessed many times over, and I now understand how money (and a certain amount of fame) can make you a bad person when you don't handle what God gives you."

Fortunately, "through all of my troubles, I'm still proud of who I am," Warfield said, "and I still have a lot of people in my corner who are willing to

help me with anything."

Warfield, 34 and never married, is simplifying his path so he can guarantee his results.

"When you bring something bad on yourself, you need a singular focus," he said. "I decided getting my degree would be mine."

Growing up in a single-parent home in the projects of Mississippi, Eric joined his mom, brother and sister in a similar environment in Arkansas. "I saw it all – drugs, guns, violence," he said, "so when I started making big money, I didn't handle it well. I was brought up better than that. My mom worked two jobs and raised three kids.

"WHEN YOU BRING SOMETHING BAD ON YOURSELF, YOU NEED A SINGULAR FOCUS," WARFIELD SAID. "I DECIDED GETTING MY DEGREE WOULD BE MINE."

She was a role model."

Now, Eric wants to be one, too. "Fortunately, I invested some NFL money wisely here in Lincoln," he said. "I've been blessed, and this time, I'm going to work hard and make sure I do it the right way."

by Randy York

IN THE Red Zone



ANDREW RODRIGUEZ

Redshirt or Play?

Defensive tackle Chase Rome is redshirting this season. But there was uncertainty that he would, according to defensive ends coach John Papuchis. The decision on whether to redshirt Rome had to be made early in the season, Papuchis said at the Big Red Breakfast in Omaha on the Friday before the Iowa State game. "Was playing him in a limited role truly worth burning his redshirt year?"

The coaches came to the conclusion it wasn't, said Papuchis.

Only three true freshmen have seen action this season: cornerback Ciente Evans, who started the Iowa State game because Alfonzo Dennard was recovering from a concussion suffered against Missouri; offensive guard Andrew Rodriguez; and wide receiver Quincy Enunwa.

Though he's played sparingly in a back-up role, Rodriguez is only the eighth true freshman to play in Nebraska's offensive line since the NCAA restored freshman eligibility in 1972 and the first to play in a season-opener since Toinu Fonoti and John Garrison played in the 1999 opener.

"We always thought in the back of our minds he maybe had a chance (to play right away), listening to our strength coaches this summer that he had good feet and he was athletic doing their drills," offensive line coach Barney Cotton said of Rodriguez following the opener against Western Kentucky.

"Then early on in training camp it kind of boils down to how fast is a guy going to pick it up mentally? So we kind of spoon-fed him at the beginning."

When sophomore Brandon Thompson, a back-up guard, "got banged up," Rodriguez practiced with the second team, and occasionally with the first team, said Cotton, and "you learn fast... (he) really stepped up his learning curve because he was kind of thrown to the wolves."

Even though coach Bo Pelini has made it clear his focus is winning now and if a true freshman can contribute to winning, he won't redshirt, a relative few have in Pelini's three seasons.

A year ago, it appeared Jeremiah Sirles and Brent Qvale might play in the offensive line without redshirting, but injuries ended consideration for both.

"It's not easy to play anywhere (position) in college as a first-year (player) because it's a brand-new terminology, brand-new techniques, the language is like a foreign language to you because they're (coaches) not speaking the same language that their coach talked to them in high school," Cotton said. "Plus, being away from home for the first time and everything of going to school, those things thrown into it, it's a big deal when a guy goes off to school and plays as a true freshman."



TRUE FRESHMAN OFFENSIVE LINEMEN AT NEBRASKA

Jake Young, C (1986)
Will Shields, G (1989)
Toinu Fonoti, G (1999)
John Garrison, C (1999)
Greg Austin, G (2003)
#Matt Slauson, T (2005)
*Jacob Hickman, G (2006)
Andrew Rodriguez, G (2010)

Started three games *Started one game

TRUE FRESHMAN UNDER BO PELINI

[2008]

Alfonzo Dennard, DB
Matt Holt, LB
*Sean Fisher, LB
*Cameron Meredith, DE

[2009]

Eric Martin, LB
Cody Green, QB
Rex Burkhead, RB
P.J. Mangieri, LS
Antonio Bell, WR
Dontrayevous Robinson, RB

[2010]

Ciante Evans, DB
Quincy Enunwa, WR
Andrew Rodriguez, OL

*Played one game, injured, medical hardship



Narrowing in on defensive end targets

Lake Koa-Ka'ai of Hawaii includes Nebraska on his list of top six prospective schools | SEAN STEVENS

LAKE KOA-KA'AI



Recruiting experts expect Nebraska to take two defensive ends in the 2011 class. The Huskers have been pursuing a number of targets, but the list was reduced recently as two of their top prospects committed to a future Big Ten opponent.

James Adeyanju (6-2, 225) of Chicago, Ill., and Jesse Hayes (6-4, 230) of Cincinnati, Ohio, both committed to Wisconsin on Halloween weekend.

One of the top remaining options is Lake Koa-Ka'ai (6-4, 250) of Honolulu, Hawaii. Koa-Ka'ai, who visited Lincoln during the Texas game, recently reduced his list of suitors to six, with Nebraska, Oregon, Arizona, Stanford, Colorado

and USC making the cut. NU seems to be in good position.

"My Nebraska trip was awesome. I loved the tradition, and all the coaches are great there. The Blackshirt tradition is incredible. It just felt like home to me up there."

Another possibility is DeVante Wilson (6-3, 234) of Concord, Calif. He was in town with Koa-Ka'ai for Missouri. What was a two-school race between Nebraska and Arizona was complicated recently by USC's scholarship offer. Wilson will visit the Trojans before making his decision.

STAFFORD LOOKING?

Despite committing to Nebraska in May,

junior college defensive back Daimion Stafford (6-1, 210) of Chaffey College in Rancho Cucamonga, Calif., is still being recruited by some heavyweight programs. Florida and USC recently offered Stafford, and he plans to visit both schools.

Stafford remains committed to Nebraska and will also visit Lincoln for the Nov. 26 Colorado game, but it appears that his recruitment is not over. One key for NU is his relationship with current Huskers Taylor Martinez and Eric Martin, both of whom Stafford played against in high school. Stafford stays in touch with Martinez on a weekly basis.

LYONS RESCHEDULES

Fort Lauderdale, Fla. safety Wayne Lyons (6-0, 190) was set to visit Lincoln for the Missouri game, but decided to reschedule after hurting his knee. He's on the mend and set to play in the state playoffs. Lyons has visited Notre Dame and UCLA and will also see Michigan and Stanford along with NU before making a decision.

COMMIT Q&A



KEVIN WILLIAMS
At a glance: Holland, Ohio, Springfield defensive tackle and Nebraska commit
Kevin Williams is one of the top players in Ohio. Huskers Illustrated caught up with Williams for this week's commit spotlight.

SEAN CALLAHAN: What makes Ohio high school football so good?

WILLIAMS: I'd say it's just really competitive. Ohio high school football is like the world to some of us. You look at when people are done playing, especially seniors when they finish their seasons and they'll be just bawling for weeks or months or the rest of their lives when they think about it. I realized that after playing here for four years that high school football is pretty much everything to some people, especially some of the people that won't play at the next level. Ohio school football is just very big, especially here.

CALLAHAN: What did you think of your first-ever Husker game last month?

WILLIAMS: It was crazy. I was shocked. I was very shocked. I'm so used to Ohio State and Michigan and around here you don't really hear about Nebraska too much. I went there with an open mind and I was still thinking about Ohio State and the Big House, but when I came to Nebraska, I was like, "Wow, this is crazy. It's way better than I expected." It's just as rowdy if not crazier than an Ohio State game and definitely crazier than a Michigan game. It's the best environment I've ever been in.

CALLAHAN: What's your favorite place to grab a bite to eat?

WILLIAMS: I would say Frickers is my favorite place. It's a chain, kind of like a Buffalo Wild Wings.

CALLAHAN: If you could have dinner with any three famous people, who would they be and why?

WILLIAMS: I would say Ndamukong Suh, DeMarcus Ware and Lil' Wayne. That would be interesting getting them all together. Suh played a big factor in me picking Nebraska. DeMarcus Ware is my favorite player because I love the Cowboys. And with Lil' Wayne I could see me having some pretty interesting conversations with him.

2011 Husker Commit List (16)

- ★★★ **TAARIQ ALLEN**, WR, 6-3, 191, Weston, Mass. (Rivers)
- ★★ **AARYN BOUZOS**, DB, 5-11, 185, La Mirada, Calif. (La Mirada)
- ★★★ **DANIEL DAVIE**, DB, 6-0, 181, Beatrice, Neb.
- ★★★★ **AARON GREEN**, RB, 5-11, 191, San Antonio, Texas (James Madison)
- ★★★★ **CHARLES JACKSON**, CB, 5-11, 180, Klein, Texas (Klein Collins)
- ★★★★ **RYAN KLACHKO**, OL, 6-4, 287, Springfield, Ill. (Sacred Heart Griffin)
- ★★★★ **TEVIN MITCHEL**, DB, 6-0, 175, Mansfield, Texas (Legacy)
- ★★★★ **TYLER MOORE**, OL, 6-6, 290, Clearwater, Fla. (Countryside)
- ★★★★ **RYNE REEVES**, OL, 6-3, 300, Crete, Neb. (Crete)
- ★★ **NIKLAS SADE**, K, 6-3, 190, Raleigh, NC (Wakefield)
- ★★★ **DAVID SANTOS**, LB, 6-0, 193, Klein, Texas (Klein Collins)
- ★★★★ **DAIMION STAFFORD**, DB, 6-1, 210, Rancho Cucamonga, Calif. (Chaffey CC)
- ★★★★ **BUBBA STARLING**, QB, 6-4, 193, Gardner, Kan. (Gardner Edgerton)
- ★★★★ **ZACH STERUP**, OL, 6-8, 260, Hastings, Neb. (St. Cecilia)
- ★★★★ **JAMAL TURNER**, QB, 6-1, 173, Arlington, Texas (Sam Houston)
- ★★★ **KEVIN WILLIAMS**, DT, 6-2, 275, Holland, Ohio (Springfield)

2011 Unofficial Offer List

Jonathan Aiken CB, 5-11, 185 Hollywood, Fla.	Christian Heyward DT, 6-2, 269 San Diego, Calif.	Givens Mordi Price OL, 6-4, 278 Houston, Texas
Darien Bryant TE, 6-4, 215 Pickerington, Ohio	Cyrus Hobbi OL, 6-4, 285 Scottsdale, Ariz.	*Malcolm Moulton WR, 5-11, 185 Fort Scott (Kan.) CC
Ray Drew DE, 6-5, 243 Thomasville, Ga.	Charles Jackson CB, 5-11, 180 Klein, Texas	Patrick Onwuasor WR, 6-2, 190 Inglewood, Calif.
Curt Evans WR, 6-0, 173 Hollywood, Fla.	Mickey Johnson DT, 6-1, 310 Covington, La.	Todd Peat, Jr. DT, 6-3, 300 Tempe, Ariz.
Christian French Athlete, 6-6, 218 Cedar Rapids, IA	Lake Koa-Kaia DE, 6-4, 250 Honolulu, Hawaii	Miles Shuler WR, 5-11, 173 Long Branch, NJ
Quentin Griffin DE, 6-3, 230 Rayville, La.	Keith Lewis LB, 6-0, 194 Lakeland, Fla.	Joel Willis Athlete, 5-10, 180 Garden Grove, CA
Jalen Grimbale DE, 6-4, 255 Las Vegas, Nev.	Wayne Lyons Safety, 6-0, 190 Ft. Lauderdale, FL.	DeVante Wilson DE, 6-4, 230 Corona, Calif.
Todd Handley RB, 5-8, 165 Riverside, Calif.	*Dexter Moody LB, 6-2, 210 Fort Scott (Kan.) CC	

* Junior College prospect

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DEEP IN THE HEART OF TEXAS

BY JOHN TALMAN
RECRUITING PUBLISHER,
HUSKERSILLUSTRATED.COM

Nebraska recruiting reflects success

WINNING CHANGES how you recruit.

It changes how you're perceived by other recruits. And that also includes other college coaches when they're looking at how to strategically recruit against you.

I noticed a huge difference at the end of the 2010 recruiting class. Nebraska, at times, was the leader in early offers. Quickly other programs would follow. Or I'd noticed how, unfortunately, they had to back off a few prospects late in the process because of lack of space in their class.

One of those prospects ended up at Oklahoma. The other ended up at Iowa. We're not talking about programs that have problems assembling talented teams year in and year out, but it's amazing the transformation between that and Pelini's first year – when a Nebraska offer wasn't carrying as much value. Now, the Huskers have the ability to say it's now or never if you want to be a part of something special.

Fast forward to this recruiting class. For starters, what sticks out to me is you're again seeing prospects with early Nebraska offers that could get left out of this class because they waited too long.

However, there is another effect winning has on your program in recruiting and it's one of the few

negatives.

You become a target.

If you have a successful position currently on the team and someone playing that spot is young, coaches use the recruiting pitch that there is more playing time at their place. Take Nebraska's young quarterback for example, Taylor Martinez. Fans love how good he is, but more than once Husker quarterback recruits like Jamal Turner have brought up his name in a different manner.

Turner has said for months that coaches from other schools continually call and try to make a push that playing time is better at their campus. Basically: Martinez is their guy, you come be ours – and do it closer to home.

Because the target on your back as a top-10 program makes you larger than life, it's also harder to keep an offer under the radar.

Put yourself in the shoes of an assistant coach. During the spring evaluation period next year, you're utilizing the allowed time on the road to recruit for the 2012 class. You find a sleeper in north Texas outside of the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex. You feel this guy could be a diamond in the rough. With proper development, he could be a steal.

Now, it's a diamond in the rough only if no one else knows. The rough isn't so rough if there are 12 offers in this

prospect's mailbox next week.

Your offer is held in high esteem. When you offer, so does everyone else. The competition heats up.

When you're a top-10 program and you make an offer, don't expect that to stay quiet. Family members, coaches, or the recruit himself will want to tell everyone: "I got an offer from Nebraska!"

It's winning, though, that's helped Nebraska stay in not just the race, but the thick of it with some of the nation's premier prospects. Along with great recruiting work, you look at how long the Huskers have stayed in the top echelon of the favorites list for say the nation's No. 4 ranked safety Wayne Lyons and top 250 Arizona defensive tackle Todd Peat Jr.

Peat stayed to his word and rescheduled his visit to Lincoln following his senior season. Lyons says he'll do the same once their campaign is done. The Huskers will be there until the end for the nation's No. 2 guard prospect, Scottsdale (Ariz.) Saguaro's Cyrus Hobbi.

Right now, that's what you expect of a top 10 program. Those are the types of recruits you should be battling for late in the cycle.

Winning a conference championship and playing in a BCS bowl is the next step.

It's the only thing this staff has left to do to take the buzz up another notch. **N**

Banwarth carves name in history

Banwarth becomes Nebraska's all-time digs leader in sweep at Texas Tech | BOB HAMAR



KAYLA BANWARTH

PHOTO BY SCOTT BRUHN

ON NOV. 6 IN LUBBOCK, TEXAS, IN FRONT OF A SMALL CROWD AT UNITED SPIRIT ARENA, KAYLA BANWARTH BECAME THE ALL-TIME LEADER IN DIGS AT NEBRASKA.

The historic dig came late in the first set of a sweep over Texas Tech. Entering that match, Banwarth needed just two digs to break Jennifer Saleaumua's school record of 1,568 digs set from 2002-2005, so she knew it was going to happen.

But when Banwarth came to Nebraska out of

Dubuque, Iowa, Wahlert High School, she had no clue where her career would take her.

"I didn't," Banwarth said. "At the start of this season it was kind of there, and I thought I'd probably do it, but starting here I had no idea. I was just trying to play, trying to contribute."

Banwarth has certainly had a big impact on the Nebraska program the past four years. She moved into the starting lineup midway through her freshman season and never came out.

Not only will Banwarth leave as the all-time leader in digs, but her influence will last long beyond her final match this December. That's because Banwarth's play has taught coach John Cook and his staff that they need to have an outstanding libero to compete at the highest level.

"I think the casual fan probably still wonders what it means and why they have a different colored jersey," Cook said. "But I think people who know volleyball have figured out, just like we have, the impact a libero can have."

"We played without a libero in 2005. I can tell you this. We're spending a lot more time trying to recruit liberos and getting the right liberos here, ones that can be impact players instead of getting just a bunch of little (defensive specialists) to walk on."

Banwarth wasn't a walk on at Nebraska. She was

LEFT SIDES IMPROVE

The hitting percentages for Nebraska's left sides haven't been good this season, but they seem to be on the rise.

As of Nov. 9, Hannah Werth was hitting .248 and Gina Mancuso .244. After being beneath the Mendoza line for much of the season, Tara Mueller had upped her percentage to .213.

That success may have stemmed from an added emphasis on the left sides connecting with the setters during practice. Coach John Cook said the Huskers started working on the relationship between the setters and the left sides about six weeks ago, after spending much of the time working the setters with the right sides and middles.

"I think we're starting to see the results of that investment in letting those guys get some time together just in what we call 'rhythm attack,'" Cook said. "There's a great analogy for it. It's very similar to football. When a quarterback throws the ball, they have to lead the receiver and they have to hit him in the right spot. Our setters have to do that with the left side hitters."

HUSKERS COULD FACE KU, K-STATE

With the Huskers leaving for the Big Ten Conference in 2011, the rivalries with Kansas and Kansas State will likely weaken, but may not disappear.

Kansas State and Nebraska talked about the Wildcats playing in next year's Ameritas Players Challenge in Lincoln but were unable to make it work. That doesn't mean that the Wildcats won't be in the tournament in future years.

"Both Kansas and Kansas State, if they want to come up here and play in tournaments, that's something we really ought to consider," Cook said. "I'm not sure we can return down there all the time, but it makes a lot of sense. They recruit Nebraska kids so I would think they'd want to come here. It's like we're trying to schedule Colorado because we have Colorado kids so we're trying to play in Colorado."

2010 Schedule

RUNZA/AVCA SHOWCASE

SAT, AUG 28	KENTUCKY	QWEST CENTER OMAHA	W, 3-0
SUN, AUG 29	FLORIDA	QWEST CENTER OMAHA	L, 2-3
TUE, AUG 31	CREIGHTON	OMAHA, NEB.	W, 3-0

BYU TOURNAMENT

FRI, SEP 3	BYU	PROVO, UTAH	W, 3-1
SAT, SEP 4	CAL POLY	PROVO, UTAH	W, 3-0
SAT, SEP 4	IDAHO STATE	PROVO, UTAH	W, 3-0

AMERITAS PLAYERS CHALLENGE

THU, SEP 9	DAYTON	NU COLISEUM	W, 3-1
FRI, SEP 10	W. MICHIGAN	NU COLISEUM	W, 3-0
SAT, SEP 11	ILLINOIS	DEVANEY	W, 3-2

BIG 12 CONFERENCE PLAY

WED, SEP 15	IOWA STATE *	AMES, IOWA	W, 3-1
SAT, SEP 18	COLORADO *	NU COLISEUM	W, 3-0
WED, SEP 22	KANSAS *	NU COLISEUM	W, 3-0
SAT, SEP 25	BAYLOR *	WACO, TEXAS	W, 3-0
WED, SEP 29	OKLAHOMA *	NORMAN, OKLA.	W, 3-1
SAT, OCT 2	TEXAS *	NU COLISEUM	W, 3-1
WED, OCT 6	MISSOURI *	COLUMBIA, MO.	W, 3-0
SAT, OCT 9	TEXAS A&M *	NU COLISEUM	W, 3-0
SAT, OCT 16	KANSAS STATE *	MANHATTAN, KAN.	W, 3-0
WED, OCT 20	TEXAS TECH *	NU COLISEUM	W, 3-0
SAT, OCT 23	MISSOURI *	NU COLISEUM	W, 3-0
WED, OCT 27	TEXAS *	AUSTIN, TEXAS	L, 1-3
SAT, OCT 30	IOWA STATE *	NU COLISEUM	W, 3-0
WED, NOV 3	KANSAS *	LAWRENCE, KAN.	W, 3-0
SAT, NOV 6	TEXAS TECH *	LUBBOCK, TEXAS	W, 3-0
WED, NOV 10	KANSAS STATE *	NU COLISEUM	7 P.M.
SAT, NOV 13	COLORADO *	BOULDER, COLO.	TBA
WED, NOV 17	OKLAHOMA *	NU COLISEUM	7 P.M.
WED, NOV 24	BAYLOR *	NU COLISEUM	7 P.M.
SAT, NOV 27	TEXAS A&M *	COLLEGE STATION, TEXAS	TBA

NCAA TOURNAMENT

FRI, DEC 3-4	NCAA FIRST AND SECOND ROUNDS		TBA
FRI, DEC 10-11	NCAA REGIONALS	TBA	TBA
THU, DEC 16	NCAA SEMIFINALS	KANSAS CITY, MO.	TBA
SAT, DEC 18	NATIONAL TITLE	KANSAS CITY, MO.	TBA

* BIG 12 CONFERENCE GAME



PHOTO BY SCOTT BRUHN

one of the first scholarship liberos that Cook recruited, and he says she has developed into one of the top liberos in the country. Banwarth is so good that the Huskers try to channel as many opponent attacks toward her as they can.

"To play at a high level you have to have a great libero, and our goal is to get her to touch the ball as much as we can," Cook said. "We've designed our defense and passing to have her touch the ball as much as possible.

The other teams are trying to keep the ball away from her."

Banwarth admitted that can get frustrating at times. Some opponents have been very successful at keeping the ball away from her, but Banwarth has grown to understand that volleyball is a team game, both offensively and defensively.

"In order for our defense to function, everybody has to be 100-percent disciplined," Banwarth said. "It's challenging. It's not an easy thing to do."

Cook's system calls for each player to have her own area to cover and to stay in that area. Banwarth plays left back for the Huskers, but it can be tempting at

times to try a bit too hard.

"It's a very fine line," Banwarth said. "You have to be disciplined and stay in the right spot, and at the same time be attacking on defense."

Cook said Banwarth has developed her volleyball skills over the years, but just as important is her leadership on the team. Banwarth isn't the vocal type of leader. She leads

more by example. It's something she has worked hard to develop during her career.

"I have tried to invest in my leadership, especially this year," Banwarth said. "I think it's important, especially as a libero. I can't get kills. There are other ways I can contribute."

Banwarth said she's come a long way from that freshman who was just trying to fit in and not make waves to being a team leader.

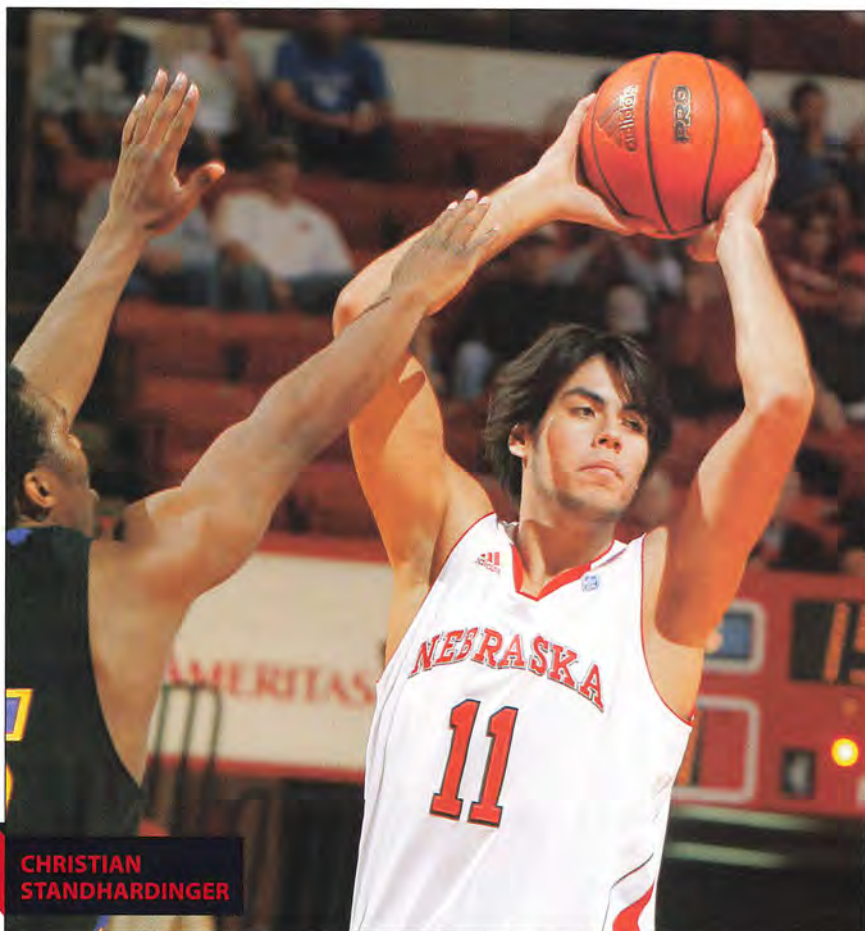
"I've gotten more confident," Banwarth said. "As a freshman, you're scared. You're trying to keep your head above water. Now I feel confident in myself and my abilities. It's a completely different mindset now, trying to do the best for my team and get the 'W' every night."

"I have tried to invest in my leadership, especially this year."

Around THE Horn

I BRIAN ROSENTHAL

THIS ISSUE MEN'S BASKETBALL BASEBALL WOMEN'S BASKETBALL SOCCER



CHRISTIAN
STANDHARDINGER

PHOTO BY SCOTT BRUHN

DEFINING A TEAM

Being a teammate at Nebraska is different than being a teammate on a European professional team.

That's what Christian Standhardinger learned during his up-and-down freshman season on the Nebraska men's basketball team.

"I wouldn't say I was the worst teammate, but I know now how to be with my teammates on the floor, cheering for them on the bench, helping them up, and all that," said Standhardinger, a 6-foot-8 sophomore forward from Munich, Germany. "I didn't see that as important when I came here, but

now I see how important that actually is."

Learning how a team functions and interacts, both on and off the court, was a new experience for Standhardinger. Pro teams are composed of players of all ages, he said, and team camaraderie isn't stressed.

"But here, we're a

SOCCER

Nebraska wasn't selected as an at-large team to the 64-team NCAA Tournament, despite the Huskers' 13-7-1 overall record and third-place finish in the Big 12 Conference.

"Most years that's good enough to get you in the NCAA Tournament, and get you in pretty comfortably," said Nebraska coach John Walker, whose team hasn't been to the NCAA Tournament since 2005.

Nebraska ended its season with a 3-2 overtime loss to Oklahoma State in the semifinals of the Big 12 Conference Tournament. The Huskers took a 2-1 lead with 8:39 remaining in regulation, but lost Jackson only moments later after her head-to-head hit with an Oklahoma State player.

The Cowgirls, ranked No. 6 nationally, tied the game on a penalty kick at 83:21 and scored 3 minutes into overtime for the victory.

Jackson and forward Morgan Marlborough earned spots on the All-Tournament Team, while Marlborough was also named the Offensive Most Valuable Player. Marlborough and Jackson, a 2010 All-Big 12 First Team selection, each had two goals in the tournament.

team,” Standhardinger said. “You really get this feeling that you sit in the same boat and you have the same goals.”

Standhardinger had to sit out Nebraska’s first 15 games last season, per an NCAA eligibility ruling, and averaged 8.1 points and 3.8 rebounds in Big 12 Conference play. But after starting Nebraska’s final four games of the regular season, he didn’t even play in the Huskers’ 75-60 upset of Missouri in the first round of the Big 12 Tournament.

“It was hurting that I didn’t play,” Standhardinger said. “That gave me motivation for the summer, to do that extra work, to go shooting. I tried to do everything possible so that it will never happen in my life again that I sit on the bench the whole game.”

Standhardinger said he’s worked on not forcing shots and playing more within Nebraska’s offense.

“Shot selection is something that makes a good offensive player better,” Nebraska

coach Doc Sadler said.

“Christian’s capable of being a 6-for-10 shooter, if he takes good shots, because he can really shoot the basketball. And understanding shot selection is something he’s gotten better at.

“He wants to be a good player, and he puts forth the effort each and every day. I mean, there’s not going to be anybody that’s going to put in the effort any more than he does.”

ON THE MEND

Nebraska is beginning the regular season with three players who are recovering from injuries.

The good news for sophomore center Christopher Niemann, though, is that his unexpected knee surgery revealed no further damage, only meniscus issues, and he’ll miss only 4-5 weeks. Niemann had two ACL surgeries on the same knee, and recent soreness and

swelling in the knee caused concern.

Junior guard Toney McCray missed both of Nebraska’s exhibition games because of plantar fasciitis. Doc Sadler said the foot injury needs to be monitored closely, as it can linger through a long period of time.

Meanwhile, junior guard Brandon Richardson is recovering from a high ankle sprain he suffered when he stepped on an official’s

foot in Nebraska’s first exhibition game against Peru State. He played only 3 minutes in that game, a 73-45 victory, and sat out the final exhibition game against Bellevue, an 82-58 victory.

WOMEN’S BASKETBALL

Dominique Kelley returned to the court to lead Nebraska in its final exhibition game, a 97-55 victory over Nebraska-Kearney.

Kelley, a senior guard and one of two returning starters from last year’s NCAA Sweet 16 team, had been recovering from knee surgery. She



DOMINIQUE KELLEY

scored 10 first-half points and finished with 14.

With Kelley back in action, the Husker offense was a bit crisper, as Nebraska shot 57.4 percent from the field.

Freshman Jordan Hooper led the Huskers in scoring for the second straight game with 20 points on 8-of-10 shooting. She also had six rebounds. The two-time Nebraska high school player of the year from Alliance led five Husker starters in double figures. The 6-2 forward produced 41 points and 14 rebounds in Nebraska's two exhibition wins.

CROSS COUNTRY

Senior Lara Crofford's

10th-place finish at the Big 12 Championships in Stillwater, Okla., earned her All-Big 12 honors, and led the Husker women to an eighth-place finish in the 6K race.

Crofford, who earned back-to-back All-Big 12 honors as a freshman and sophomore, is the first Husker man or woman to earn three such honors during a career.

David Adams' 20th-place finish led the men to a sixth-place finish in an 8K race. It's the best finish for a Husker since James Bowler placed 19th in 2002.

WOMEN'S GOLF

Nebraska closed its fall season with a three-round

total of 914 at the Alamo Invitational – the team's best 54-hole tournament performance of the fall.

Madeleine Sheils fired

a two-over-par 74 to close with a 225 over three rounds to finish tied for 24th at the Briggs Ranch Golf Club in San Antonio, Texas.



LARA CROFFORD

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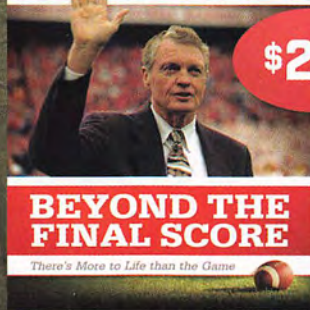
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FROM THE ARCHIVES

TOO CLOSE FOR COMFORT

Nebraska visited Sun Devil Stadium in Tempe, Ariz., twice during the 1987 season, the first time to play No. 12-ranked Arizona State. An interception by senior linebacker Steve Forch (No. 38) at the Huskers' 30-yard line with 2:38 remaining sealed the 35-28 victory. Broderick Thomas (No. 89) celebrates. Arizona State had tied the game with 4:55 remaining, after recovering quarterback Steve Taylor's fumble at the Nebraska 13-yard line. But Taylor responded with a touchdown just over a minute later, set up by I-back Keith Jones' 62-yard run. The victory was the No. 2-ranked Huskers' third, coming two weeks after a 42-33 victory against No. 3-ranked UCLA. Nebraska would remain No. 2 until late November, when it would inexplicably trade places at the top of the poll with Oklahoma the week before the rivals played at Memorial Stadium in what was billed as the "Game of the Century II." The game didn't live up to its billing. The Sooners won more handily than the 17-7 score indicated, sending Nebraska back to Sun Devil Stadium for a Fiesta Bowl match-up against Florida State on New Year's Day, won by the Seminoles 31-28. Nebraska finished the season ranked No. 6.



GAMES REMEMBERED

LEADERSHIP AT QB

Blackshirts shut down Aggies, hold Texas A&M to just 33 yards in dominant third quarter

BEFORE TWO-A-DAY

practices began in the late summer of 1988, Tom Osborne told reporters Nebraska probably wouldn't have accepted an invitation to play Texas A&M in the college football season-opening Kickoff Classic if the Huskers hadn't had an experienced quarterback in senior Steve Taylor.

Such leadership was always important, of course, but especially so early in the season season, against a nationally ranked opponent. A&M was No. 10 in the Associated Press pre-season poll.

Osborne expressed the same attitude before Nebraska played Penn

State in the first Kickoff Classic in 1983 and reiterated it before the Huskers played West Virginia in 1994 Kickoff Classic.

The wisdom of his approach was reflected in three victories as well as the fact that the MVP in each was Nebraska's quarterback: Turner Gill, Taylor and Tommie Frazier.

Taylor completed 11-of-22 passes with 125 yards and one touchdown, without an interception, against an Aggie defense that featured the "Blitz Brothers," linebackers Aaron Wallace and John Roper, who talked openly about intimidating Taylor in the days leading up to

the game.

The Husker defense proved to be the more intimidating of the two, limiting A&M to 33 yards of offense during the third quarter, as Nebraska took control. Outside linebacker Broderick Thomas and inside linebacker LeRoy Etienne led the Blackshirts, with 14 and 11 tackles, respectively. The Aggies' Bucky Richardson completed only 5-of-17 passes for 42 yards, with two interceptions.

TOM OSBORNE: "In the third quarter, we took charge. That's a tribute to tenacity and maturity and character and a great weight program."

NEBRASKA 23, TEXAS A&M 14

Aug. 27, 1988 • Giants Stadium, East Rutherford, N.J.

Texas A&M	7	0	0	7	-	14
Nebraska	0	3	9	11	-	23

(AM) Matt Gurley 1 run (Scott Slater kick)

(N) Gregg Barrios 44 field goal

(N) Barrios 38 field goal

(N) Ken Clark 1 run (pass failed)

(N) Todd Millikan 20 pass Steve Taylor (Clark run)

(AM) Randy Simmons 2 run (Slater kick)

(N) Barrios 48 field goal

Attendance: 58,172

DO YOU REMEMBER?

► Gregg Barrios, a sophomore walk-on, didn't know he would handle the place-kicking in place of an injured Chris Drennan until Friday night's workout before the Sunday game. Drennan missed his first field goal attempt, then made three in a row.

► Attitudes might change, but the game remains the same. A&M wide receiver Rodney Harris was sidelined after returning the second-half kickoff and being tackled by Etienne. Thomas was quoted afterward: "LeRoy got us all pumped up because he did something not many people can do — he put a guy out cold."

► Nebraska's offensive line went almost all the way: tackles Bob Sledge and Doug Glaser, guards Andy Keeler and John Nelson, and center Jeff Anderson, who replaced injured All-American Jake Young.



CROSSWORD & TRIVIA

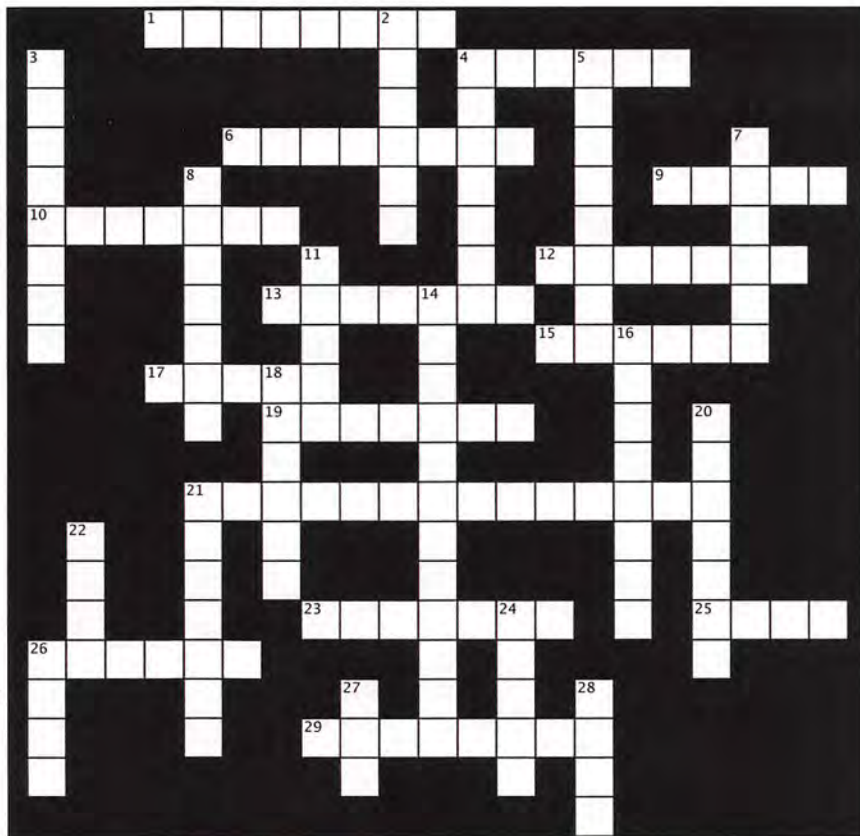
ACROSS

1. Leading rusher vs. Iowa State
4. Texas A&M's winningest head coach
6. Quarterback who played one play vs. Iowa State
9. True freshman who started a cornerback vs. Iowa State
10. Returned interception for touchdown vs. Iowa State
12. Ex-Husker running back now with Green Bay Packers
13. 2011 non-conference opponent
15. Former NU assistant now on Texas A&M staff
17. Starting quarterback vs. Iowa State
19. Former NU strength coach now at Texas A&M
21. Texas A&M campus location
23. 1992 Outland Trophy winner
25. Ex-Husker linebacker now with Tampa Bay Buccaneers
26. Smallest starting offensive lineman
29. Wears No. 34

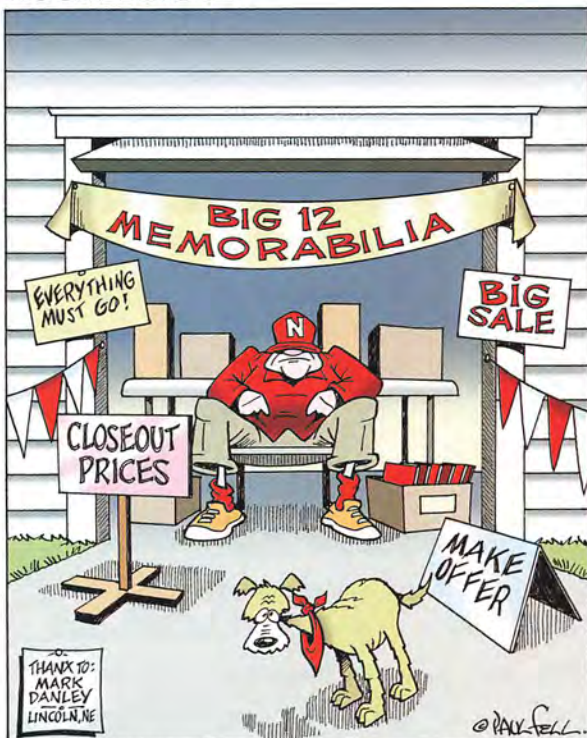
DOWN

2. Texas A&M nickname
3. Special teams coordinator
4. Texas A&M head coach
5. Nov. 26 opponent
7. Texas A&M school color
8. 1994 Outland Trophy winner
11. Former NU athletic director now at Texas A&M
14. Texas A&M bowl after 2009 season
16. Texas A&M mascot
18. Linebackers coach
20. Cornerback who missed Iowa State game with injury
21. Wears No. 51
22. 2012 non-conference opponent
24. Wears No. 4
26. Texas A&M's only Heisman Trophy winner
27. Quarterback who missed Iowa State game with injury
28. Frank Solich's current school


Answers will appear in the Nov. 26 issue



HUSKERNUTZ



YOU HOLD A BIG END-OF-SEASON GARAGE SALE OF YOUR BIG 12 COLLECTIBLES AND NOBODY SHOWS UP.



BRAIN BUSTER

Through the first eight games, sophomore tight end **Kyler Reed** had caught seven passes, four of them for touchdowns, an impressive ratio. But how about this? A former Husker tight end shares the NCAA record for consecutive passes caught for touchdowns, six. Can you identify him? His name is on this list: Junior Miller, Todd Millikan, Gerald Armstrong, Matt Herian, Sheldon Jackson, Tracey Wistrom.

Answer will appear in our next issue

NOV. 13 ANSWER: Dennis Richnafsky, Kansas State, 1967

NOVEMBER 13 SOLUTION





THE FINAL WORD

BY MIKE BABCOCK

Final game against Jayhawks gone in a flash

JUST OVER 5 MINUTES into his post-game interview, Taylor Martinez turned away from the podium.

"Is that everything? Perfect."

He turned back. OK, one more question about Texas A&M, requiring maybe 20 seconds.

Then: "Is that everything?"

Before anyone could respond, Martinez headed out.

The kid can move, no doubt about that.

Bo Pelini, who preceded his quarterback to the podium, spent barely 6 minutes answering questions. As with Nebraska's 20-3 victory against Kansas, everything went quickly on this 30-degree night.

"I thought the game was flying," said Martinez, who started and played the entire game. "I look up at the clock and there was, like, 2 minutes left in the first quarter. Yeah, it flew by."

The official time, from opening kickoff to final gun, was 2 hours and 37 minutes.

"I felt like I just got out there and it was already time to go in for halftime," Niles Paul said.

By the time the Huskers headed to the locker room at the half, the outcome had been determined. There was no more suspense, if there ever had been.

Even though Nebraska, which was favored by as many as 35 points, led just 14-0, it was apparent Kansas would

need some mistakes – not just one – to get in the end zone. The Jayhawks had managed only three first downs, and the second was a result of a defensive holding penalty.

They picked up two more first downs in the third quarter. And that was it.

If defense is your pleasure, spending \$39.95 for the pay-per-view telecast was a good investment of your entertainment dollar. If not, well, the remaining games will be network telecasts.

While the Husker defense was holding Kansas to 87 yards, the Husker offense was inconsistent, despite the return of Martinez, who missed all but one play of the Iowa State game because of a high-ankle sprain. Or maybe it was because of his return. "We tried to protect him out there a little bit," said Pelini. "That was kind of the plan going in, let him ease back into it."

Martinez, who claimed to be 100-percent healthy, carried only three times in the first half but added eight carries, for 66 yards, in the second. The initiative was his, according to Martinez. He went to the coaches at halftime "and told them to have me start running the ball," he said.

As has been the case when Nebraska's offense hasn't clicked this season, "we didn't execute very well. We were sloppy," Pelini said. "When we execute what we're being asked to do, we're

pretty good. I think we're slowly but surely getting better, and it showed out there tonight."

Apparently, it didn't show enough, however, because the No. 1 offense was still on the field for the final series, which ended with Martinez downing the ball at the Kansas 35-yard line.

The two preceding plays had been passes, one complete, the other incomplete.

Pelini was asked if he had left his starters in for BCS style points.

"No," he said. "I don't care about that. I didn't like how we played at times offensively in the game. I didn't like our execution. That just gave us more reps to keep working and getting better."

Truth be told, the Huskers seem to get better offensively based on the level of competition, combined with the health of Martinez, who can turn short gains for someone else into long touchdowns.

Turner Gill's Jayhawks were coming off a remarkable fourth-quarter rally against Colorado. But the Huskers' focus might have been lacking, as it was in the South Dakota game.

Martinez referred to Nebraska's remaining regular-season games as "bigger games." That's the reason his playing against Kansas was so important, "just to know it's my team and no one else's team," he said, "and for me it's establishing a rhythm..." **N**

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